

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: VANCE 4 MAY PRESS CONFERENCE

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY VANCE'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF MAY 4, 1977 ARE TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT SO FAR OF THE PROSPECTS FOR A JOINT ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA; AND CAN YOU SAY WILL YOU BE SEEING AFRICAN LEADERS IN LONDON WHILE YOU ARE THERE AND, IF SO, WHICH ONES?

A: WE ARE WORKING VERY CLOSELY, AS WE HAVE ALL THROUGH THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, WITH THE BRITISH ON THE SOUTHERN AFRICA QUESTIONS AND SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO RHODESIA. WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH DAVID OWEN AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF IN DEVELOPING IDEAS FOR A NEW INITIATIVE IN RHODESIA.

WE HAVE HAD A GROUP FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHICH HAS BEEN OVER THERE RECENTLY FOR SEVERAL DAYS WORKING WITH MR. OWEN
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AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF. I HAVE REVIEWED THE RESULTS OF THAT ALONG WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT.

I WILL BE GOING BACK TO LONDON, AS YOU KNOW, ON THURSDAY, AND ON FRIDAY I WILL BE MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND HIS STAFF TO DISCUSS THE DECISIONS WHICH REMAIN BEFORE US ON HOW WE ARE NEXT GOING TO PROCEED IN THIS AREA. I

THINK WE WILL REACH THOSE DECISIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
BY THE NEAR FUTURE I WOULD SAY ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF MAY,
PERHAPS EVEN A LITTLE EARLIER THAN THAT.

Q: WILL YOU BE SEEING AFRICAN LEADERS IN LONDON AND, IF
SO, WHICH ONES?

A: I WILL BE SEEING MR. NKOMO ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON. LET ME
INDICATE I HAVE ALREADY SEEN BISHOP MUZOREWA WHEN HE WAS
HERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Q: YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT SALT SUGGESTS THERE IS A DEADLOCK;
IS THAT CORRECT?

A: NONE HAS MOVED FROM THEIR POSITION AT THIS POINT, BUT
THE PARTIES ARE TALKING TO EACH OTHER. SO YOU CAN DRAW
YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS, USE WHATEVER WORDS YOU WANT. WE ARE
TALKING TO EACH OTHER, AND I HOPE OUT OF THIS PROCESS WE
WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS.

Q: WELL, DO YOU FIND AT THIS POINT AS A RESULT OF THESE
TALKS THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY GIVE IN THE POSITIONS OF
EITHER SIDE TO SUGGEST A COMPROMISE?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR CONVERSA-
TIONS AT THIS POINT, AND I AM JUST GOING TO LEAVE IT
THERE.

Q: IN YOUR SPEECH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA ON SATURDAY
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YOU SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES
SHOULD BE ASKING ITSELF ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS.

IS IT THE IMPLICATION OF THOSE QUESTIONS THAT IN THE FUTURE
WE WILL BE HEARING FEWER PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS AND DE-
PARTMENT OF STATE STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, OR IS THAT A
FALSE CONCLUSION TO DRAW FROM THIS?

A: IT DOESN'T NECESSARILY FOLLOW. WHAT I TRIED TO DO IN
THE SPEECH WHICH I GAVE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA WAS
TO DEFINE WHAT WE MEANT BY HUMAN RIGHTS, AND AS YOU WILL
NOTICE IN THE SPEECH THAT I GAVE I EXPANDED THE DEFINITION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN TERMS OF THE VARIOUS SUB-COMPONENTS THAT
ARE INCLUDED WITHIN HUMAN RIGHTS.

I SECONDLY TRIED TO SET OUT THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT WE
WOULD HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN DECIDING HOW WE WERE
GOING TO PROCEED IN GIVEN CASES ON A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY
BASIS, WHICH I HAVE SAID ALL ALONG IS THE WAY I BELIEVE

THAT YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM EXCEPT WHEN YOU ARE DEALING IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORA.

I STRESSED ALSO THE IMPORTANCE OF USING THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FORA TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS ON THESE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS.

THERE IS NO LESSENING AT ALL IN TERMS OF OUR CONVICTION THAT THIS IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT IT MUST BE CARRIED FORWARD. I DID BELIEVE IT WAS USEFUL TO DEFINE WITH GREATER PRECISION THAN WE HAVE IN THE PAST BOTH WHAT WE MEANT BY HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOW WE INTENDED TO APPLY OURSELVES TO DEALING WITH THOSE QUESTIONS.

Q: SINCE THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF SOUTH AFRICA, COULD YOU DEFINE FOR US WHAT THIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY NOW IS TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTICULARLY TOWARD HOW RAPIDLY WE BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE MOVED TOWARD MAJORITY GOVERNMENT INCLUDING ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA?

A: OUR POLICY WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH AFRICA IS AND REMAINS THAT WE ARE INALTERABLY OPPOSED TO APARTHEID. WE FEEL IT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE, HOWEVER, TO MEET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. VORSTER, TO TALK WITH HIM ABOUT THE QUESTIONS OF RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA AND HOW THEY PLAN TO MOVE WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA IN MAKING PROGRESS IN MOVING AWAY FROM APARTHEID AND IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF MINORITIES WITHIN THEIR COUNTRY. THAT IS A SUBJECT WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT WITH MR. VORSTER WHEN HE MEETS WITH HIM SHORTLY.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS NOW ON THE PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE AND WITH THE PAST AND PRESENT INVOLVEMENT OF FRANCE, EGYPT, MOROCCO AND OTHERS IN THIS CONFLICT?

A: THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE HAS CHANGED SOMEWHAT SINCE WE LAST MET- THERE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE MEDIATION EFFORT LED BY THE NIGERIANS, WHICH WE HAVE BEEN VERY STRONGLY SUPPORTING SINCE THE OUTSET.

I DISCUSSED THIS A NUMBER OF WEEKS AGO WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GARBA WHEN HE CAME TO THE UNITED STATES BEFORE IT WAS DECIDED TO LAUNCH THAT EFFORT.

I BELIEVE THAT THE SOLUTION WILL HAVE TO ULTIMATELY BE FOUND BY THE AFRICANS IN A POLITICAL SOLUTION; AND THERE-

FORE I VERY STRONGLY SUPPORT AND WELCOME THIS EFFORT WHICH IS BEING CARRIED FORWARD.

ON THE MILITARY SIDE, AS ALL OF YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO, THE SITUATION HAS SOMEWHAT CHANGED IN THE LAST SEVERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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WEEKS. AS A RESULT OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE, THE MILITARY SITUATION HAS APPEARED TO CHANGE ON THE GROUND AND IT HAS RESULTED IN A MOVEMENT BACK FROM THE AREA NEAREST TO THE COPPER BELT CLOSER DOWN TOWARDS THE BORDER WHERE THE FIGHTING APPEARS TO BE GOING ON NOW.

A NUMBER OF NATIONS, BOTH AFRICAN AND NON-AFRICAN, HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE IN TERMS OF BOTH NON-LETHAL, NON-MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND ASSISTANCE, AND SOME OF THE OTHER NATIONS HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BOTH SOLDIERS AND LETHAL EQUIPMENT.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE SITUATION WITH GREAT CARE AND WORK WITH THE PARTIES IN TRYING TO BRING ABOUT AN ULTIMATE RESOLUTION, WHICH AGAIN I SAY I BELIEVE MUST BE WORKED OUT BY THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF U.S. RELATIONS IN EASTERN AFRICA, AND ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE COMMUNIST INFLUENCE THERE -- PARTICULARLY IN THE HORN?

A: WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE SITUATION IN THE HORN WITH GREAT CARE. WE HAVE DONE A STUDY, AND HAVE COMPLETED OUR STUDY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE HORN OF AFRICA. RECENTLY, THE SITUATION HAS BECOME MORE TENSE AS A RESULT OF A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES.

AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE ETHIOPIANS HAVE ASKED US TO WITHDRAW A NUMBER OF OUR PEOPLE AND FROM A NUMBER OF FACILITIES, WHICH WE HAVE DONE. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED TO THE ETHIOPIANS THAT WE HAD ALREADY DECIDED THAT WE WERE GOING TO CLOSE DOWN OUR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY IN ASMARA AND, AT THE SAME TIME, TO REDUCE OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSION IN ETHIOPIA.

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WE HAVE KEPT IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH OTHERS IN THE AREA, IN-

CLUDING THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND
WITH OTHERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE SITUATION WHICH IS
DEVELOPING IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

EVERYBODY, OF COURSE, WILL BE WATCHING TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS
IN THE ELECTIONS WHICH WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN THE TERRI-
TORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS, WHICH IS COMING UP VERY SOON --
THAT'S DJIBOUTI. CHRISTOPHER

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